

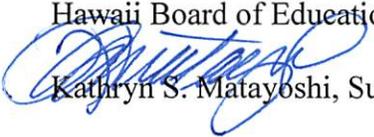


STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 21, 2014

TO: The Honorable Donald G. Horner, Chairperson
Hawaii Board of Education

FROM:  Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Discussion/Recommendation for Board Action on the School Year (SY) 2014-2015
School Calendar**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board) take action to adopt the attached proposed school calendar for use in SY 2014-2015 on the January 21, 2014 General Business Meeting.

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

SY 2014-2015.

3. RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE

Upon Board approval.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation

- The proposed calendar deviates from the model used for the past five years. First, the proposed single school calendar, applicable to all public schools except multi-track schools and charter schools, reflects a "1-3-1" model, i.e., one-week fall break between the first and second quarters, three-week winter break that consists of two-weeks winter recess plus one-week intersession between the first and second semesters and one-week spring break between the third and fourth quarters. Second, by having a three-week winter break, the end of the school year is pushed back to June 3, 2015 for students and June 4, 2015 for teachers. The start date remains similar to previous years with July 28, 2014 as the teachers' start date and August 1, 2014 as the students' start date.

- The proposed calendar meets the requirements of 180 days of student instruction pursuant to Act 167, as amended by Act 52, and codified in HRS §302A-251. It also maintains the 190 work days for teachers (189 actual work days plus one equivalent day [6 hours] contiguous to the work day). In addition, as with the current school year, there are 21 additional hours contiguous to the work days pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement with Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) for SY 2013-15.

b. Previous action of the Board on the same or similar matter

School calendars from previous years.

c. Other policies affected

None.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation

- The Department of Education (Department) desires to push back the end date of the school year to have sufficient time after completion of the student assessment window to assure proper testing protocols have been followed and allow time for correction. This is critical since any breach in protocol has the potential to negatively impact Hawaii and all of the other states who are part of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. As noted above, the school year will end on June 3, 2015 for students and June 4, 2015 for teachers.
- The length of the semester days for students is fairly balanced, 89 days in the first semester and 93 in the second semester, which is especially important for secondary schools that may have semester long classes.
- The proposed calendar should not have a negative impact on summer school schedules.
- Students, families and community members may prefer the longer winter break.
- The Department, through a Superintendent directed workgroup, is exploring options for starting the school year later in future years in order to avoid the very hot days in late July and early August. However, to do so will require extensive planning and analysis; thus, the workgroup is focused on SY 2015-2016. There are many complicated issues associated with making significant changes to the school calendar. For example, the current HSTA Agreement requires the 10-month teacher work year to end before Kamehameha Day. In addition, modification to the pay periods and the date upon when the first paycheck of the school year is received by 10-month employees may need to occur, in consultation with the unions, given the statutory requirement that all employees receive 24 pay checks reflecting 1/24th of annual salary over the course of the work year. Once the workgroup has completed its analysis and made recommendation, the Department will report to the Board with further suggestions.

e. Arguments against the recommendation

None identified at this time.

f. Findings and conclusion of the Board committee

Not applicable.

g. Other agencies or departments of the State involved in the action

There are no other agencies or departments involved in this action.

h. Possible reaction of the public, professional organizations, unions, Department of Education staff and/or others to the recommendations

None identified at this time.

i. Educational implication

None identified at this time.

j. Personnel implications

There are no known personnel implications. Hawaii Government Employees Association and HSTA have been provided copies of the recommended calendar. Consideration will be given to all issues, concerns and suggestions.

k. Facilities implications

None.

l. Financial implications

None identified.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

KSM:AA:ms

Attachment

c: Office of Human Resources

